The Direct Payments to Farmers (Cross-Compliance) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

It is the intention of this new policy to undo changes made to the penalty regime in 2022 and 2023 by revocation of the previous statutory rules, reapplying the treatment of certain negligent penalties as intentional on repetition. This would apply to all Cross-Compliance standards, including animal health and welfare and is in response to emerging environmental crises.

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

√

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

The Direct Payments to Farmers (Cross-Compliance) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

1A. Name of Public Authority.

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

This is an amendment to the legislation and the majority of applicants come from rural areas.

This policy revision will not impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.

The amendment to the legislation will ensure that the Cross-Compliance Penalty System penalties are proportionate by removing the automatic consideration as intentional of repeat negligent non-compliances which have already reached the cap at 15% from 1 January 2024.

It will not have any significant impact on the social and economic needs of the population in rural areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

In return for payments under the area-based schemes covered by Cross-Compliance, farmers must meet a number of Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and keep the land they are farming in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC).

DAERA carries out a percentage of inspections (rates confirmed each scheme year) to verify that all the Cross-Compliance requirements are being met. Failure to meet these requirements can lead to financial penalties being applied to area-based scheme payments that a farm business receives.

The vast majority of applications received are from applicants living in rural areas.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

x

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

**SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

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2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

X

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

X

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

**SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

The amendment to the legislation will ensure that the Cross-Compliance Penalty System penalties are dissuasive and contribute to improvement of our environment and waters.

It will not have any significant impact on the social and economic needs of the population in rural areas.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

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*(Revised) April 2018*

N/A

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

**SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

Yes No If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C.

X

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Denise Phillips

Position/Grade:

DP

Division/Branch

Area-based Schemes Operational Policy Branch

Signature:

Date:

14 October 2024

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Audrey Henderson

Position/Grade:

(Acting) G7

Division/Branch:

Area-based Schemes Operational Policy Branch

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

X

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

9/6/2196//21

 14 October 2024

Signature:

